



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

May 9, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *tm*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – LITTLE
PEOPLE'S WORLD SITE FOUR AND SITE FIVE GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Little People's World (Group Home or Agency) Site Four and Site Five Group Homes operated by Little Peoples' World, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Little People's World Group Homes are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 6-12 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Site Four Group Home was not providing services for any Los Angeles County children. Site Five Group Home was providing services for one DCFS child and four Riverside County children.

Little People's World Group Homes are located in Riverside County.

Scope of Review

Since Site Four Group Home is not providing services for any Los Angeles County children at this time, the monitoring review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes only a facility inspection.

The purpose of the Site Five review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and an interview with the DCFS child placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. The interview with the child is designed to obtain a perspective on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Site Four Group Home needs to clean the kitchen window, the main bathroom, the windows in the children's bedrooms, and clean and paint the attic entry door.

Site Five Group Home needs to assess children for services within the first thirty days of placement. Additionally, the Group Home needs to include the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans (NSP), maintain current and comprehensive NSPs that include short and long term goals, and provide children with treatment services that are identified in the NSPs.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jh
http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
C.S.J. Kidogo, Executive Director, Little People's World Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Little People's World
Site Four Group Home
39514 Brookside Avenue
Cherry Valley, CA 92223
Phone: (951) 845-8367
License Number: 330910409
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Site Four Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped. However, the exterior of the kitchen garden window is dirty.

Overall the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, in the main bathroom there is mold and mildew on the tiles, around the bathtub, and on the ceiling and light fixture, and there are water stains on the bathroom ceiling. Additionally, the attic entry door is dirty and the paint around the door is chipped.

Children's bedrooms are orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. However, the windows do not fit properly and the windowsills are dirty.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

- 1. Little People's World management:**
 - a. Clean the kitchen garden window.**
 - b. Clean the main bathroom including the light fixture and ceiling.**
 - c. Clean and paint the attic door and surrounding area.**

- d. Repair the windows in the children's bedrooms.**
- e. Clean the window sills in the children's bedrooms.**

**Little People's World
Site Five Group Home
276 North Allen Street
Banning, California 92220
Phone: (951) 849-9619
License Number: 336402541
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Site Five Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child meets the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the child was not assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development or implementation of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). The NSPs are not current, comprehensive, and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations**1. Little People's World management:**

- a. **Assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement.**
- b. **Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.**
- c. **Maintain current Needs and Services Plans for all children.**
- d. **Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short and long term goals.**
- e. **Maintain documentation to show that all children are receiving treatment services.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child is attending school. The child is provided with educational support and resources to meet his educational needs and is progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of the child's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

The child is provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides the child with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. The child is provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. The child also participates in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which he has an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

The child has a current court authorization for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the child is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

The child is informed about his psychotropic medication and is aware of his right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child was informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. The child reports that he feels safe in the Group Home and is provided with appropriate staff supervision. The child expresses satisfaction with the quality of his interactions with staff and reports that the staff treats him with respect and dignity.

The child reports that he is assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. The child is able to attend religious services of his choice. The child is able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visits.

The child reports that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The child reports satisfaction with meals and snacks.

The child receives voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to the child. The child is provided with opportunities to select his own clothes. Clothing provided to the child is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides the child with the required minimum weekly allowance. The child spends his allowance as he chooses.

The Group Home provides the child with adequate personal care items. The child is also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining a photo album/life book.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.



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E-Mail csjkidogo@littlepeoplesworld.org

Little Peoples' World Inc.

January 11, 2007

2nd Submittal March 7, 2007

Department of Auditor-Controller
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple St. Room 515A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor

Facility and Environment:

Recommendations

Little Peoples' World management:

- a. Clean the exterior of the garden window
 - b. Remove mold and mildew from main bathroom
 - c. Remove water stains from bathroom ceiling and ceiling light fixture
 - d. Paint the attic entryway and surrounding area
 - e. Repair the window's bedrooms
-
- a. The garden window was located inside the staff office. The garden window was replaced on December 10, 2006 as the outside had water scale build up.
 - b. December 10, 2006 new tile and grout was installed in the main bathroom as well as a new bathtub and fixtures.
 - c. December 5, 2006 water stains was removed from the bathroom ceiling and ceiling light.
 - d. December 5, 2006 the attic entryway door and surrounding area was painted.
 - e. December 5, 2006 the windows were repaired to remove air gaps, the window sills were painted in the children bedrooms.
 - f. The Administrator and Facility Manager will conduct bi-weekly site inspections and complete the Group Home Self- Assessment Form to ensure routine maintenance; repairs and upkeep are completed in a timely manner. The Quality Improvement Controller will conduct quarterly inspections of the site to ensure repairs are properly completed and maintained.

Personal Rights

Recommendation

Little People's World management provide children and their approved visitors with privacy and flexibility in scheduling and following through visits

LPW visitation policies are super ceded by the placing agent and the court. LPW amended the Visitation Policy as noted.

- a. Copy of the amended form is attached
- b. The Administrator or Facility Manager will implement the revised Visitation Policy and Agreement Form beginning February 14, 2007

The Quality Assurance Controller will ensure the revised form is implemented beginning February 14, 2007.

Program Services

Recommendations

Little Peoples' World management:

- a. Assess children for needed services within thirty days of placement
- b. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.
- c. Maintain current Needs and Services Plans for all children
- d. Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited and include short and long term goals.
- e. Provide documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

The Administrator and Facility Manager will maintain calendar controls to ensure timely completion of Needs and Services Plan.

The Administrator will ensure that the treatment team and child are involved in the monthly treatment team meeting and the participants of the meeting are documented. The Administrator will review the plan monthly to ensure completion and implementation of the Needs and Services Plan.

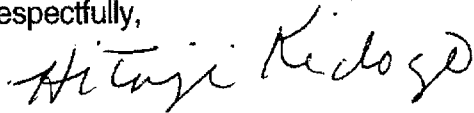
The Administrator will ensure that the facility social worker develop a Needs and Services plan that is comprehensive and has short and long term goals. The Administrator will review the plan upon completion.

The Administrator will review documentation monthly to ensure the records reflect the services the child is receiving.

The Quality Improvement Controller will conduct monthly monitoring to ensure timely completions of Needs and Services Plan. The Controller will ensure treatment team as well as the child input in planning and implementation of the plan. The Controller will require correction of discrepancies within three days of discovery.

The Quality Improvement Controller will conduct monthly monitoring of records to ensure records have documentation of services the child receives. The Controller will require correction of discrepancies within three days of discovery.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hitaji Kidogo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hitaji" and last name "Kidogo" clearly distinguishable.

Hitaji Kidogo, Director of Services